

A New Beginning

Two men—Christopher M. Musiet, nSJ, and Richard J. Beebe, nSJ—began a new chapter in their lives by entering the Jesuits at Loyola House in Berkley, Michigan, on August 20, 2005. Chris and Richard have now begun the journey towards ordination and a lifetime of ministry.

While fifteen years apart in age (Musiet is 26, Beebe 41) both men share remarkable similarities—they both graduated from Northeastern Illinois University, have worked in the computer industry and learned about the Jesuits in unconventional ways. While Richard's seventeen-year career was spent mostly in computers, Chris transitioned from web consulting and technical assistance to being a pharmacy technician for Walgreens, helping patients in Chicagoland.

While neither Chris nor Richard graduated from a Jesuit school (Richard briefly attended Loyola University Chicago in 2003) their first experiences with Jesuits show just how large of a reach the Jesuits have. Chris's first experience with the Jesuits was in a European history class he took as a junior in college. "The discussion sparked my interest in the Jesuits and I soon found myself engrossed in independent research on them," he explains.

Richard's first experience with the Jesuits was also an educational one but in a slightly different manner. Richard came across the Jesuits during a high school trip to Italy. "A friend of one of our chaperones was a Jesuit studying in Rome," he recounts. "He gave us the most amazing tour of the Vatican and ancient Rome. I was struck by both his depth of knowledge and his unassuming manner."

As Richard and Chris grew in their understanding of the Jesuits, they each noted similarities between their own ideals and the Jesuit ideals. Chris was drawn to the Jesuit order by its strong sense of



Richard Beebe, nSJ, (seated) and Chris Musiet, nSJ, entered the Jesuits at Loyola House on August 20, 2005. The years ahead are challenging but bright for Chris and Richard as they prepare for ordination and their mission as Jesuits.

faith, justice, compassion, intelligence and brotherhood. Richard felt most strongly connected with Ignatian Spirituality: "Once I began to learn about what the Society of Jesus actually does, I was very attracted to the diversity of ways in which the Jesuits are missioned to serve, and the constant evaluation against the founding principles of the Society; always asking the questions what more can be done. They seemed to be living the kind of life and purposeful existence that I aspired to."

Both Chris and Richard are filled with hope as they enter the novitiate. "I am very thankful to God," says Richard, "for the grace that led me to the Society of Jesus; and I'm rather in awe of being invited to join such an amazing company of men. Being accepted as a Jesuit is a very humbling and joyous experience. And for me, it's at the same time both the culmination

and the beginning of a wonderfully fulfilling spiritual journey." Chris concurs, "My thoughts are those of excitement and promise. I have already found myself surrounded by Jesuits that are truly seeking the Magis, the future looks bright and my heart is truly on fire."

A Jesuit priest can serve in many different ways in the United States or abroad. Education is obviously a mainstay of the Jesuit tradition but besides a life in academia, Jesuits also serve as pastors, chaplains, counselors, and even medical doctors. Both Chris and Richard are keeping their options open as to how they will serve. "I hope to serve in any way that my talents can be fruitful; there is no one specific way in which I would prefer to serve. I have interests in pastoral and spiritual ministry as well as education, and I enjoy working with people of all ages," explains Richard. "I know that however my talents are used, they will benefit both the Society of Jesus and those to whom we minister." Chris adds, "I hope to serve with the grace of God first and foremost effectively. I have a great desire to someday teach and could easily see myself doing that in a school. But I can easily fulfill that role in a prison, a mission or a shelter. I hope to just always be where the need is greatest."

"I see a great future in being a Jesuit," says Chris. "I look forward to being a friend in the Lord and a man for others by helping others to my fullest capacity to know and love the Lord." Richard agrees while challenging himself, "To be able to slow down and listen to how God is moving within me and to know what the Lord would want me to do."

For these two novices who share expertise in the cutting-edge field of computer technology, the Jesuit emphasis on tradition and innovative approaches to serving human needs in the future could not be more exciting. ■

—Annie DiMattina

Novitiate Visits

November 4–6 • December 2–4
February 10–12, 2006 • March 3–5

Berkley, Michigan

The novitiate is located in Berkley, near Detroit. If you desire to visit and see what novitiate life is like, please contact me (Fr. Dave Godleski) and let me know when you would like to go. These weekends are for those who have begun the candidacy program and have had an initial interview with the vocation director.

The weekend begins with Mass on Friday at 4:45 P.M. (Eastern Time) and concludes with brunch on Sunday afternoon (around 1:00). For further details (what to bring, directions, etc.), please contact me at (773) 975 6882 or vocations@jesuits-chi.org.

Six Weeks a Jesuit

Summer 2006

Come join us for an in-depth experience of Jesuit life. Each summer the North American Jesuit Vocation Directors sponsor the Six-Weeks-a-Jesuit program. From the end of June to the beginning of August, candidates for the Society of Jesus from all over the United States and Canada immerse themselves in Jesuit life. The location for the program during the summer of 2006 is yet undecided, but participants will live in Jesuit communities and work in Jesuit apostolates. In addition, participants will gather for weekly conferences that introduce different aspects of Jesuit life.

The program begins and ends with an orientation and closing weekend. There is also a get-away weekend of fun/reflection halfway into the program. Participants in Six-Weeks-a-Jesuit should be men who are seriously discerning God's call to the Jesuit vocation and are willing to commit themselves to a summer of serious and intentional prayer, work, reflection and fun.

For more information about the Jesuits, please contact



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Upcoming Vocations Events

Discernment Retreat

January 2–9, 2006

Loyola House (Novitiate)
Berkley, Michigan

An opportunity to help a person slow down and listen to how God is speaking to him. During retreat, men who are thinking about the Jesuits come together for prayer and reflection in silence. Each man is given a retreat director who works with the person one-on-one. Along with individual prayer and reflection there will be the opportunity for common prayer, daily Eucharist and shared reflections. The retreat is free of charge although transportation costs are not included. We're also open to men making shorter retreats of 4–5 days during that same time period. This retreat is strongly recommended for those candidates who are considering applying for the Society in 2006.